

VZCZCXRO6664
RR RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHTL #0739 3181526
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 141526Z NOV 07 ZDS
FM AMEMBASSY TALLINN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0331
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0851

C O N F I D E N T I A L TALLINN 000739

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y //REMOVE RUEHRC AND ADD PASS LINE//

SIPDIS
NOFORN

DEPT PASS TO DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
DEPT FOR EUR/NB KATHERINE GARRY, EUR/ERA - SHAWN GRAY,
EEB/TPP/ABT/BTT JACK BOBO
STATE PASS USTR MELISSA CLARKSON, AND USDA/FAS ELIZABETH
JONES
WARSAW FOR FAS KATE SNIPES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/13/2017
TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [EUN](#) [WTO](#) [EN](#)
SUBJECT: ESTONIA TO SUPPORT EU COMPLIANCE WITH WTO BIOTECH
RULING

REF: SECSTATE 153542

Classified By: DCM Karen Decker for reasons 1.4 (b) & (d).

11. (SBU) Estonia will support EU compliance with the WTO ruling outlined in reftel by the November 21 deadline for a Reasonable Period of Time (RPT). According to Allan Gromov, Deputy Under Secretary of the Ministry of Environment (MOE), Estonia voted against the ban on these corn varieties initiated by Austria at the last committee meeting. Gromov told us that, as there was no qualified majority, the EU Commission will take a position in favor of these corn varieties as demanded by the WTO. The decision will be made very soon to meet the RPT deadline in order to avoid U.S. sanctions.

12. (C) Comment: The Government of Estonia (GOE) has a reputation for objective, science-based decisions on biotech issues. This particular issue of compliance with the WTO ruling revealed rifts within the GOE and the Ministry of Environment itself. However, in the end the GOE's commitment to rules-based decisions won out. The MOE initially planned to oppose compliance with the WTO ruling within the RPT deadline. However, it changed its position after the MFA weighed in, arguing for a position in support of compliance with WTO rules. End Comment.

PHILLIPS